

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner  
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
May 12, 2015



**Linda and Dick Auger enjoy a glass of wine produced at their Taylor Brooke Winery in Woodstock, one of 33 participating in the 2015 Passport to Connecticut Farm Wineries promotion program.**

## **PASSPORT PROGRAM PROVIDES BOOST FOR FARM WINERIES, STATEWIDE TOURISM ECONOMY**

It's been sixteen years since Linda and Dick Auger hand-planted their first grapevines on a Woodstock hillside that was once a cornfield.

Today, the ever-expanding vineyards at their Taylor Brooke Winery contain about 8,000 vines spread over eight acres, including about 5,000 planted last spring.

"We made a business commitment when we first started that our goal was to grow our own grapes and have the rest grown locally for us," Linda said last week as the winery tourism season began in earnest. "That is our philosophy and our mission statement."

While the couple has focused their energy on improving the vineyards and buildings on their property, they say a Department of Agriculture program that promotes all 33 Connecticut farm wineries has been extremely effective in drawing visitors to their out-of-the-way farm in the state's northeast corner.

Now in its 11th season, the Passport to Connecticut Farm Wineries encourages participants to visit the wineries in order to collect as many "stamps" as possible and qualify for prize drawings.

Nearly 65,000 of the passport booklets, which list and describe each farm winery, are distributed at the wineries between May and November.

"Without this program, I doubt that we would see many people visiting us from Litchfield, Fairfield or New Haven counties," Linda

Auger said. "Almost half of our 10,000 visitors come from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and we know that many of them decide to continue on and visit other Connecticut wineries once they receive their Passport."

The program is a project of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council, which is made up of members representing the diversity of the state's farm wineries, and is under the agriculture department for administrative purposes.

In 2014, the agriculture department estimated that the program generated more than \$1.3 million in direct sales for wineries. And many winery owners say that figure is likely dwarfed by the associated economic activity generated by visitors in surrounding shops, restaurants and other venues.

"The impact to local economies could be tenfold that amount," said Paul Maugle of Maugle Sierra Vineyards in Ledyard.

"Our winery brings in 250 to 1,500 people each weekend and many of our visitors also go to local restaurants in the evening."

Cara Sawyer, of Preston Ridge Vineyard in Preston, said the annual promotion has been instrumental in her winery's growth since it opened a few years ago.

"We were amazed in our first year on the first day of the Passport program to see the number of cars lined up in the parking lot before we even opened," Sawyer said. "It would take significant time

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	103.00	110.50
boners 80-85% lean	102.50	110.00
lean 85-90% lean	97.00	110.00
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 120-128 lbs	335.00	420.00
No 1 110-118 lbs	375.00	540.00
No 1 90-108 lbs	515.00	540.00
No 1 80-90 lbs	545.00	600.00
No 2 120-128 lbs	400.00	400.00
No 2 100-118 lbs	420.00	499.00
No 2 94-100 lbs	510.00	532.00
No 2 80-92 lbs	535.00	600.00
No 3 100-130 lbs	460.00	467.00
No 3 80-98 lbs	525.00	527.00
No 3 72-78 lbs	540.00	540.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	162.50	167.00
Ch2-3	156.50	163.00
Sel1-3	152.00	159.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	144.00	151.50
Ch2-3	137.00	145.00
Sel1-2	128.00	138.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm3-4	158.00	164.50
Ch2-3	154.00	158.50
Sel1-2	n/a	n/a

**NEW HOLLAND, PA**

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
40-60 lbs	280.00	325.00
60-80 lbs	230.00	255.00
80-110 lbs	265.00	272.00
110-130 lbs	212.00	220.00
130-150 lbs	170.00	188.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: 2-3		
100-160 lbs	80.00	100.00
200-300 lbs	72.00	76.00
BUCKS		
100-120 lbs	100.00	158.00
160-200 lbs	102.00	122.00
200-300 lbs	105.00	115.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	170.00	182.00
60-80 lbs	220.00	257.00
80-100 lbs	255.00	265.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	162.00	187.00
130-180 lbs	255.00	290.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	300.00	335.00
150-250 lbs	340.00	380.00

**PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY**

US #1-2 10-20 lb	250.00	350.00
20-30 lb	175.00	275.00
30-40 lb	150.00	180.00
40-50 lb	130.00	130.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**  
Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
APPLES, MAC, 120, US#1	17.00	17.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12OZ	12.00	15.00
CHIVES, 1LB	8.00	10.00
CIDER, APPLE 4-1 GAL	24.00	24.00
BEETS, 25LBLOOSE	9.00	9.00
LETTUCE, HYDROPONIC, 12/CS	15.00	15.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1LB	24.00	26.00
RUTABAGAS, 50LBS	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, BTTRNT, 1-1/9 BU	26.00	28.00
TOMATOES, 12LB, GRHSE, VR	24.00	25.00
TOMS, CHRY, GHSE, ONVINE, 5LB	12.00	14.00

**SHIPPED IN**

ASPARAGUS, NJ, BNCHED, 28LB	71.00	71.00
BASIL, FL, BU, 15	24.00	25.00
BLUEBERRIES, GA, 12-6 OZ	18.00	19.00
BOK CHOY, FL, 30LB	20.00	20.00
CARROTS, GA, 16-3LB	19.00	23.00
CHERRIES, CA, 16LB/10-1/2ROW	65.00	70.00
COLLARDS, GA, 12	13.00	15.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 1-1/3 BU, 18	32.00	32.00
KALE, GA, BU, 12	12.00	14.00
MACHE, PA, GRHSE, 3LB	12.00	12.00
PEACHES, CA, 48-50	35.00	38.00
PEPPERS, GHSE, NETH, 11LB	32.00	32.00
RADISHES, NJ, 24	18.00	18.00
RHUBARB, MI, GRHSE, 20LB	30.00	35.00
SPINACH, SAVY, NJ, 1-1/3 BU, 24	23.00	24.00
SQUASH, GREEN, GA, 1/2BU	10.00	16.00
SWISS CHARD, TX, 12/CTN	16.00	18.00
WTRCRSS, PA, ORG, GHSE, 2.2LB	26.00	26.00

**CONNECTICUT GROWN PLANTS**

FLAT, FLOWERS	7.75	8.00
FLAT, VEGETABLES	7.75	8.00
4" IMPATIENS, NEW GUINEA	1.60	2.10
4" HERB, EA	2.00	2.20
4.5" GERANIUM	1.70	2.10
6" GERANIUM	3.50	4.25
10" HANGING BASKET	8.75	9.00
12" PATIO PLANTER	10.90	12.00
8" SUMMER ANNUAL	4.50	5.00
TOMATO, 2 GALLON	5.00	5.40

**NEW ENGLAND/NY CUT FLOWERS**

ANEMONE, NY, 10	16.00	16.00
CALLA, LONG, NE, 5	15.00	15.00
GARDENIA, NE, EA	5.50	5.50
LISIANTHUS, NE, 10	17.50	19.50
SUNFLOWER, LGE, NE, 5	6.50	6.50
TULIPS, NE, FRENCH, 10	4.00	15.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**  
Middlefield, CT., May 11, 2015

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	65.00	75.00
61-75 lbs.	370.00	380.00
76-90 lbs.	425.00	435.00
91-105 lbs.	440.00	450.00
106 lbs. & up	460.00	470.00
Farm Calves	480.00	490.00
Starter Calves	52.00	60.00
Veal Calves	177.50	250.00
Open Heifers	150.00	175.00
Beef Heifers	134.00	155.00
Feeder Steers	185.00	200.00
Beef Steers	135.00	147.00
Stock Bulls	110.00	200.00
Beef Bulls	130.00	141.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	30.00	35.00
Butcher Hogs	75.00	95.00
Feeder Pigs	40.00	75.00
Sheep	125.00	250.00
Lambs	160.00	230.00
Goats each	115.00	295.00
Kid Goats	210.00	220.00
Canners	up to	103.00
Cutters	104.00	107.00
Utility Grade Cows	108.00	111.00
Rabbits each	4.00	28.00
Chickens each	2.00	15.00
Ducks each	5.00	21.00

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white  
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.18	1.38
LARGE	1.12	1.26
MEDIUM	.89	1.02

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**Per doz. Grade A brown in  
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.63	1.75
LARGE	1.57	1.67
MEDIUM	1.22	1.32

**NEW HOLLAND, PA.**  
**HOG AUCTION**

52-56	200-300 lbs	48.00	53.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00	49.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	40.00	43.00
	300-350 lbs	39.00	42.00
	350-400 lbs	32.00	35.00
Sows, US1-3			
	350-450 lbs	13.00	15.00
	500-600 lbs	26.50	27.00
Boars	500-600 lbs	5.00	8.00



**FOR SALE**

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com).

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com).

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

36-R. Black Angus cow with calf on the side. Call 860-212-5463.

37-R. 4 passenger waggonnet that can be set up for team or single horse. Excellent condition. Asking \$3,600.00. 860-599-0792.

38-R. TEW-Fruit and vegetable grader and washer. Older, but works fine. \$650.00. 860-620-0194.

40-R. H International tractor. Overhauled, in good shape. \$1,500.00. Farmall 340 diesel. Great shape. Older John Deere lawn mower. 203-269-9755.

43-R. 1955 Massey-Ferguson TO-35. Working tractor. Maintenance records and owners manual. With 5' bush hog. \$2,500.00. 860-481-0029.

44. FMC Model 1229 sprayer. 3 pt hitch. Single sided air delivery with 16 blade fan. For use on vegetables and dwarf fruit trees. Has J. Bean pump, and J. Bean rollover nozzles—Spray either dilute or concentrate by simply turning them. A 1/2 turn will shut off. Has fiberglass blower Housing and Fiberglass 100 gal. tank. Also has single handed spray gun. Have original operator's manual. Very nice. Asking \$2,800.00 or B.O. Tel. 203-283-4472 or 203-516-1693, leave message.

45. Lely model 'H' 3 pt. hitch, fertilizer and lime spreader. Have both Fertilizer and Lime feeder rings. Freshly sand blasted, primed and painted. Holds at least 600 lbs fertilizer and 1/2 ton lime. Very nice. Asking \$500.00 or B.O. Tel. 203-283-4472 or 203-516-1693, leave message.

46. 80" wide Maschio model 'B' very heavy rototiller. 3 pt hitch. Low usage on my former small farm. Has four different Rotor speeds. Asking \$3,200.00 or B.O. Tel 203-283-4472 or 203-516-1693, leave message.

47. IH tractor, only 2,550 hours. Has IH loader. Good rubber. Has open cab with glass front windshield. Asking \$12,500.00. Tel 203-283-4472 or 203-516-1693, leave message.

48. Bigham Sub-Soiler. 9 ft wide, 3 row tool bar, 6 shanks. Excellent condition. \$2,800.00. Call Andy 860-916-3171.

49-R. 250 corrugated strawberry flats. 30 cardboard bins for pumpkins. 30 – 1-1/9 bu waxboard vegetable boxes. Call 860-712-7624.

**WANTED**

28-R. Used or new gutter cleaner 14" links for Patz barn cleaner and used or new fertilizer hopper for no. 56 International 2 row corn planter. Call 203-735-2862.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

41-R. Bulldozing in Eastern Connecticut. Large farm ponds dug. Land clearing for farmers also a specialty. Work done with rootrake to preserve topsoil and remove rocks. Personal service. Will help with permits. Don Kemp 860-546-9500.

**2015 ACS CHEESE CAMP IN PROVIDENCE**

Registration is open for the American Cheese Society's (ACS) annual cheese camp, featuring an educational conference and world-renowned cheese competition, to be held July 29 through August 1 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, RI.

More than 1,000 professionals, purchasers, and influencers from throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe attend to network, sample products, and learn from industry experts.

Registration information is available at [www.cheesesociety.org](http://www.cheesesociety.org).

## **PASSPORT PROGRAM PROVIDES BOOST FOR FARM WINERIES, STATEWIDE TOURISM ECONOMY**

**(Continued from Page 1)**

and money to build such awareness through traditional or social media channels."

Part of the attraction of the program is the chance to win prizes, including two 14-day trips for two to Spain. One grand prize drawing is held for those who visit 16 wineries in the book, and a second for those who visit all 33 wineries and the CT Wine Festivals in July and September.

Other prizes include a limousine tour of eight wineries for eight people, overnight stays at selected hotels in Connecticut, and certificates for two bottles of wine from one of the state wineries.

Auger said she believes that beyond its value as a marketing tool, the program also has greatly increased visitors' curiosity and awareness of the origin of the wine they are sampling or buying.

"In the last few years, more and more people are asking if all the grapes are grown here," she said. "I say no, and then explain how much of our grapes are in each of the wines they're tasting."

For years, the Augers have supplemented the grapes grown on their property with those raised for them at nearby Fox Run Farms in Brooklyn, as well as other local farms.

In 2013, they bought and cleared 13 acres adjacent to their property with the help of a Farmland Restoration Grant awarded by the agriculture department.

A New York firm was hired to plant the vines with a relatively small automatic planting machine guided by GPS and a laser that resulted in near-perfectly aligned rows.

"They planted 3,000 vines in six hours," Dick Auger said. "Unbelievable."

The remaining 2,000-vine section that was too wet at the time had to be planted later – all by hand. The Augers say that the agricultural responsibilities and challenges in the wine business are often overlooked by those who view it as not much more than filling customer's wine glasses in a well-appointed tasting room.

Last May, for example, a hail storm did extensive damage to their St. Croix vines that had just started budding.

"We're farmers, and we're no different than any other farmer as far as Mother Nature's graces," Linda Auger said with a wry smile.

Springtime work on the vines includes "tucking" – the process of training them to grow vertically in the space between trellis wires that run the length of the row. Figuring out what grapes will thrive on a given piece of land is a major part of the agricultural equation.

What may succeed at Taylor Brooke's 900-foot elevation, where the well-drained vineyards are fully exposed to the sun, may not work elsewhere.

"You have to have the right varietal for your property and soil type," Linda Auger said.

The Augers have made significant investments in Taylor Brooke in recent years, assisted by state grants that helped finance expansion of their bottling operation and to build a covered, concrete grape-crushing pad that doubles as a pavilion where visitors can enjoy a sample of wine just steps away from the vineyards.

"People really enjoy being able to be so close to the vines," Linda Auger said. "That's a really important part of the experience we're trying to create here."

**More information on the Passport program is available at [www.passporttoctfarmwine.com](http://www.passporttoctfarmwine.com); [www.facebook.com/CTFarmWineries](http://www.facebook.com/CTFarmWineries) and [www.pinterest.com/ctfarmwineries](http://www.pinterest.com/ctfarmwineries). Questions should be directed to Jane Slupecki at the agriculture department at 860-713-2588 or [jane.slupecki@ct.gov](mailto:jane.slupecki@ct.gov).**





### CT FARM EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION

34-R. Cheese Sales Person for our on farm shop. Sell cheese, educate customers. Update social media. Assist with cheese making and cheese care. Wed-Sunday full time. \$12.50/hour. Go to [www.catocornerfarm.com](http://www.catocornerfarm.com) for info.

35-R. Coventry Farmers' Market sales person. Sell cheese at Connecticut's busiest farmers' market! Sundays June – October, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$11/hr. Go to [www.catocornerfarm.com](http://www.catocornerfarm.com) for info.

36-R. Summer Cheese Intern – Learn how to make and sell cheese! 3 to 5 days per week, must include Saturday and Sunday. \$9.15/hour. Go to [www.catocornerfarm.com](http://www.catocornerfarm.com) for info.

39-R. Assistant Farm Manager: Mid-size farm. 3+ years practical agricultural experience (4 year degree preferred)-ideally crop/livestock production. Assist/perform duties for farm owner: crop management; irrigation management; cultivating/harvesting; record keeping/inventory; IPM/soil management; equipment maintenance/mechanical skills, etc. 860-683-0266.

## Passport to Connecticut Farm Wineries Available May 1

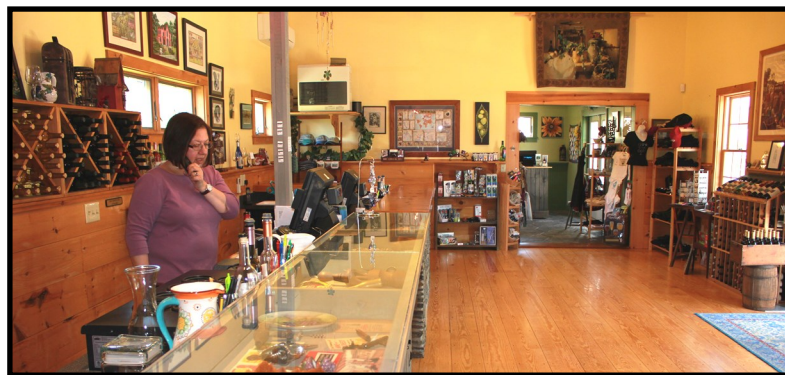
**PASSPORT**  
to  
**Connecticut**  
**Farm Wineries**  
*Connecticut Farm Wine*  
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Visit Connecticut  
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& Vineyards*

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[CTGrown.gov](http://CTGrown.gov)

**Top:** Some of the grapevines at Taylor Brooke Winery in Woodstock, one of 33 farm wineries participating in the 2015 Passport to Connecticut Farm Wineries promotion.

**Right:** Owner Linda Auger takes a phone call in one of the tasting rooms at Taylor Brooke.



**Advertising Rates:** Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact [Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov](mailto:Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov) or call 860-713-2588.

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